

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING MAY 3, 2005

The Hall County Board of Corrections met from general session and by published call.

10:30 a.m. Eriksen made a motion and Rye seconded to go into a board of corrections meeting. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Bob Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Members present were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Dick Hartman, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Bob Rye. Also present was Corrections Director Dave Arnold.

CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS REPORT – Corrections Director Dave Arnold was present and distributed the statistical reports to the board members. He stated that over the last two months they booked 754 people and over the weekend they booked in 75, they hope that this is not an indication of the summer. They have an average of 104 inmates, of the 754 bookings there were 1408 charges. He included the breakdown of the offenses and the number of arrests by agencies. Also included in the packet is the report from Emmett Arnett on the work release.

This is National Corrections Week and he read the Proclamation.

Arnold noted that since January he has had two corrections officers assaulted and one inmate is still at large. One inmate was sent to the state because of problems and now the county pays to house him there. Arnold noted that if the corrections officers thought about what could happen to them everyday they would not come to work, but thinking about what can happen keeps them safe.

Hartman expressed concern that female officers are watching inmates, but Jeffries noted that it is required by law not to discriminate when we hire male or female. The officers are required to perform the duties required of the job. It was questioned if there was the right ratio of officers to inmates. Dave Arnold stated when you have limited staffing you work with what you have and there are issues with the facility.

Lancaster stated that this is no different than the military men and women are assigned like duties and they receive the same training.

Dave Arnold stated that in a new jail facility this incident would not happen. He also stated that jail standards did some regional training and he sent 15 officers because it was held in Grand Island. This local training was a big help to smaller agencies in the area that need the required training. He also stated that the State of Nebraska ran out of money for the reimbursements in January so the county has not received any more payments.

Arnold stated that he has reviewed the food service contract for the jail because it is up for renewal. He checked various facilities around the state for comparisons on the cost per meal and his cost is lower than most and that does not address the benefits of the documentation and training that Aramark provides, this alone is a big benefit for the county.

Hartman noted that he visited with a previous Hall County Sheriff and their cost is \$2.85 for the meals. Jeffries questioned if it was a good idea to do a 5-year contract.

Dave Arnold stated that a large portion of the costs are the staff and Aramark is a stable company and they have the advantage of business partnerships with other companies that help to keep the price per meal down.

Jeffries stated that the corrections committee met with Aramark and they offer Hall County the same rate as larger companies. He also stated that the cost per year is on a sliding scale depending on the number of inmates. He has concern on signing a 5-year contract and suggested that by putting this contract out for bids to see what is out there.

Humiston stated that there is a tremendous amount of documentation that Aramark takes care of and this could certainly save problems in the future. He also noted that there is a termination clause in the contract if the county decided to make changes in the future.

Hartman questioned if they could get commodities and Arnold stated that they are unable to do that.

Jeffries stated that the corrections committee recommended authorizing the chair to sign a 5-year contract with Aramark for the food service contract. The price per meal that the county pays is equal to or less than other jails our size.

Arnold made a motion and Humiston seconded to authorize the chair to sign a 5-year contract for the food services for the jail with Aramark. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and Hartman and Jeffries voted no. Motion carried.

Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to go into executive session. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried

10:53 a.m. executive session

11:40 a.m. Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to go out of executive session. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Bob Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Dave Arnold stated that there was another incident over packets of personal information that should have not been released to an inmate.

Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to request that the county attorney investigate the options of indigent defense outside of the public defender's office and to determine what other options are available and return to board in 4 weeks.

Jeffries made a motion to authorize the corrections department to hire an additional employee to perform duties as directed until a permanent position is available. This is to keep the staff level up.

Returned to regular session.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk